



Baptist Minister Jailed?

It appears that Bryan Harris, minister of youth at FBC, Columbus, has been arrested. (See story on page 5 for explanation.)

Larry Garner Joins Church Training Staff

Charles Larry Garner, a native of Booneville, has been elected to the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board by its Executive Committee.

He will serve as a consultant in the board's Church Training Department.



Garner

Garner, formerly minister of education at Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus, will work in Church Training for youth and will serve as a consultant for church recreation.

He has previously worked as minister of youth and as pastor of churches in Booneville, Corinth, Iuka, Columbia, and in New Orleans.

Garner attended Booneville High School and Blue Mountain College, and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1971 by Tate Street Baptist Church in Corinth.

He and his wife, the former Nancy Tacker of Corinth, have three children.

Garner replaces Bill Latham on the Church Training staff. Latham now works with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Other Church Training staffers are Kermit King, director; Norman Rodgers, and Evelyn George.

Sunday School Gives Nod To TV Bible Series

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The executive committee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has approved \$360,000 for the new Baptist radio and television Bible correspondence series, \$285,700 for construction at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, and \$75,000 for a minicomputer energy management system.

The \$360,000 in reserve funds will be used for writing and editing of 11 series programs and for obtaining media time and writing curriculum support material to be offered free to viewers, according to Robert Fulbright, Bible teaching division director.

The series, a joint effort of the Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, will premiere in October.

The \$285,700 appropriation will allow construction of a 10,000-sq. ft. auditorium at the conference center in Black Mountain, N. C.

Robert Turner, conference division

director, said the auditorium is needed as Ridgecrest, and the other major SBC conference center, Glorieta in New Mexico, move into an expanded program for youth during the 1979 summer months.

The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 500 and will include five conference rooms accommodating 250 persons. The air-conditioned facility may be expanded to seat 700 through use of folding doors which will connect the auditorium to the conference rooms.

It will be built north of Spillman Auditorium at the conference center, provided the site meets construction requirements.

Wayne Chastain, director of the management services division, said the minicomputer system is being purchased as part of the board's effort to conserve energy and reduce energy costs. He said the computer, based on

(Continued on page 3)

Baptists Plan For During 1980 Winter Olympics

By Celeste Loucks

LAKE PLACID, N. Y. (BP) — The milling throngs of thousands that will migrate to the upstate New York resort community of Lake Placid for the 1980 Olympic winter games are the focus of enthusiasm among Southern Baptist missions leaders.

Task forces from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Baptist Convention of New York, and Adirondack Association, are working together to establish a permanent church in Lake Placid as part of Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist dream to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

"It is one of the few really 'bold' things we are doing" that's evident to those outside the denomination, says Ken Prickett, who is helping launch the ministry.

The Home Mission Board's first move is to secure key property to

house Southern Baptist personnel and provide a place for worship and a coffee shop. In April, Prickett, field consultant for special mission ministries, hopes to move to the Lake Placid site. In June, a special team of students from Kentucky will begin Bible studies, take census, and help in other resort mission work.

By fall, Wayne Fagala and his fiancée, Kathy Nan Manley, who have volunteered for two years of missions service in the U. S., will arrive for follow-up and to coordinate new work and help organize for an influx of Southern Baptist volunteers.

"I believe we have much to offer," said Prickett, "because we are concerned with ministry and sharing the gospel. In all of our preparation and study of this area we will discover many vacuums and needs that Southern Baptists can fill." But, Prickett emphasized, "We have to earn the

right to be part of the Olympic scene."

Southern Baptists have had no ministry in Lake Placid, a small (population of several thousand), usually relaxed resort town in upstate New York that's already blitzed with Olympic souvenirs, from T-shirts to bumper stickers. Businesses are changing their names to capitalize on the Olympic image. Real estate has skyrocketed.

In early February, Prickett and members of two task forces met with the Olympic religious affairs committee. Formation of the committee is a "historical first" for the Olympics, according to Jon Meek, New York's director of missions.

At the meeting, about 50 persons from various denominations and sects (including Word of Life and Baha'i) grappled with ground rules for ministry. While Southern Baptists comprise (Continued on page 3)



A skier heading down a snow-covered mountainside somewhere in the northeast symbolizes the coming activities at Lake Placid, N. Y., when thousands of tourists and olympic participants descend on the tiny town without a single Southern Baptist church. (Photo by Elaine Furlow)

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Brogan Replaces Brown As Baptist Seminary Chief

Richard A. (Dick) Brogan has been elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson.

Trustees of the seminary elected Brogan to succeed T. B. Brown who is taking a disability retirement June 8.

Brogan has been for the past seven years, director of the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. His office coordinates joint ventures between black

and white Baptists in the state.

As president of the black seminary, Brogan will be working for both National and Southern Baptists. The seminary's trustees are elected by both groups of Baptists.

The Cooperative Ministries department of the Baptist Convention Board will be closed, with funding of the seminary and the work of the department continuing under the office of the seminary president.

In addition, the seminary trustees voted to begin a campaign to raise \$350,000 to build a new central campus facility for the seminary. It is renting space in property owned by Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on Delta Drive in Jackson. The new facility will be built on property already

owned by the seminary on Jackson's Lynch Street. The seminary operates a central center in Jackson and 20 extension centers around the state.

They also accepted the resignation of trustee Leon Bell of Jackson, and appointed R. E. Willis also of Jackson, to replace him. Ray Wilson of Cleveland resigned, but a replacement has not yet been named.

A native of Laurel, Brogan was graduated from Mississippi College and earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi Baptist Seminary in 1971.

He is married to the former Catherine Dunn of Magnolia. They have three children.



Dick Brogan, left, and T. B. Brown at Mississippi Baptist Seminary commencement. Brogan has been interim president of MBS since Brown suffered a stroke last fall.

Enroute To SBC Take Care Against Fleecing

ATLANTA (BP) — Rip-off artists in service stations along Georgia's Interstate 75 effectively fleece unsuspecting motorists — mostly vacationers — according to a recent report by the New York Times News Service.

Baptists using that route to attend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta, June 13-15, have been warned to beware of dishonest stations. Timothy Ryles, administrator of Georgia's Office of Consumer Affairs, said complaints from motorists indicated that up to one-fifth of the 500 service stations along the route prey on unsuspecting tourists.

The New York Times report listed some exotic swindles such as: —Drop-

ping Alka Seltzer tablets into the battery which causes a minor explosion, smoke and foam — clear evidence of the need for a new battery.

—An attendant may slice a tire, then spray water on it to show a leak.

—Barbecue sauce mixed with alcohol, then sprayed on the alternator creates a cloud of smoke and the smell of electrical disaster.

—With the car on the service rack, the attendant squirts oil under the shock absorbers, giving the appearance of a dangerous leak, and then issues a pitch for new shocks all around.

Convention participants are advised to be doubly sure their vehicles are in proper running order before setting out for Atlanta.

Retreat For Exceptional Persons Draws 75



A marshmallow roasting by a campfire at Garaywa was a treat for the participants. The white stick taped to the little girl's back is a tongue depressor, an ever-present reminder of the girl's epileptic condition. (Tim Nicholas Photos)

The pictures are scenes from a retreat for the mentally retarded, their parents, and teachers, held at Clinton's Camp Garaywa.

The annual event is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Church Training



The Clowns of Parkway Heights United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, led by Laura Krustchinsky, performed for the people at the retreat.

Department and coordinated by Evelyn George, who has the program assignment of work with the mentally retarded.

Miss George says her responsibilities include promoting the teaching of mentally retarded persons, and aiding churches in setting up departments for these people.

She knows of about 15 churches which have ongoing ministries to the mentally retarded (about half in the Jackson area). "But at least half the churches in Mississippi could have a ministry," says Miss George. "There are mentally retarded people in every community."

In addition to the annual retreat, and individual consultation, Miss George has training available at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this summer during one of the Church Training Weeks.

Miss George characterizes the men-

(Continued on page 3)



The kids were introduced to each other by trying to recognize one another's feet. All but the feet were covered by the curtain and others tried to guess who belonged to the feet.

State CP Gifts Meet Pro-Rated Budget Needs

Cooperative Program gifts of \$804,105 for May from Mississippi Baptist Churches brought the total gifts for the year to \$3,641,845, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer.

The gifts for May of this year were \$238,465 more than for the same month of last year and represented an increase of 42.2 percent, Kelly indicated.

The total gifts for the year are ahead of the budget figure for five months by \$43,512.

The first five months of this year have seen the three highest months in Cooperative Program giving in the history of the Mississippi Baptist Con-

vention, Kelly pointed out. February was the month with the highest total in history until that record was broken in March. The May total is the second highest for one month, eclipsing the February figure.

"This interest by Mississippi Baptists in state-wide, nation-wide, and world-wide missions efforts is inspiring and commendable," Kelly said. "All over the world people know of Mississippi as being a missionary-minded state. With this kind of interest, Bold Mission Thrust will attain its goal of providing a witness to the entire world by the end of the century."

House Passes Tax Credit Bill; Outcome In Doubt

WASHINGTON (BP) — The House of Representatives approved, 209-194, a tuition tax credit proposal for parents of students enrolled in nonpublic, parochial schools.

The action marked the first time the House has passed such legislation, although the Senate has approved tax credits on several previous occasions. That body is expected to pass a new tax credit bill within the next few weeks.

While the House action is a disappointment to opponents of tax credits, it may prove to be only a temporary defeat. President Carter has promised to veto any such legislation.

The House rejected, by a vote of 261 to 142, an attempt to increase the portion of tuition eligible for the tax credit

from 25 percent to 50 percent. Also rejected was a substitute motion which would have provided deferral of income taxes for college tuition. This proposal, introduced by Rep. Abner J. Mikva, D.-Ill., would have allowed the taxpayer to repay the amount of taxes deferred over a period of 10 years at an interest rate of three percent.

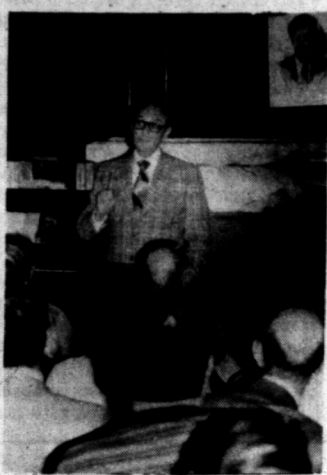
The measure, as passed by the House, would allow the taxpayer to reduce federal income taxes by 25 percent of the amount spent on college tuition up to a maximum of \$100 per student this year, \$150 in 1979 and \$250 in 1980.

At the elementary and secondary level the credit would allow 25 percent of tuition up to \$50 per pupil this year and \$100 in 1979 and 1980.

Tishomingo Retreat: Deacons Exist To "Kick Up The Dust"

At the recent pastor-deacon retreat at Tishomingo State Park, Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board told participants how to start a movement that would regenerate the church: "It would take place if 'deacons would stay on their knees long enough to get a vision and rally around the pastor to help get the job done.'"

Kelly said that people shouldn't expect great changes in short periods of time. "All great movements come one



Earl Kelly speaks to Pastors and Deacons.

Rome (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has named a black prelate to an archbishopric in an area of South Africa often described as "the very heart" of Afrikaner support for total apartheid. He has appointed Bishop Pietro J. Butelezi to the prestigious Archdiocese of Bloemfontein, named for the predominantly white city in the heart of the Orange Free State.

FMB

23 Named As Missionaries; Need For Many More Stressed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Twenty-three missionaries, including one home office staff member, were named to serve in 10 different countries during the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's May meeting.

The additions brought the total number of missionaries appointed this year to 53, but mission leaders alerted board members that many more are needed.

John E. Mills, area secretary for West Africa, said that his area alone needs 72 more missionaries this year. Total personnel requests for the 90 countries or territories where Southern Baptists have work add up to 1,406.

The new missionaries approved included 20 for career appointment and three employed as missionary associates. Associates go overseas for four-year renewable terms.

The home office staff member appointed was Roger L. Swann, accounting supervisor in the treasury department. Swann, a Tennesseean, and his wife Beverly, a Louisianan, both former missionary journeymen, will go to Tanzania, where he will serve as business manager for the organization of missionaries in that East African country. Mrs. Swann was a tax accountant at the board before their marriage.

Continuing to grapple with problems related to inflation and the declining value of the U.S. dollar in many nations, the board voted \$27,970 for further increases in cost-of-living allowances for missionaries in 12 countries. Cost-of-living adjustments have had to be made for missionaries in 34

other countries in board meetings this year.

The board also voted to send two of its members to meet with representatives of European Baptists to discuss the future of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The international seminary, hit hard in the past year by inflation and the reduced buying power of the U.S. dollar in comparison to the Swiss franc, had a \$48,730 budget deficit in 1977. The seminary is seeking ways to trim its expenses and gain added support from European Baptists in view of a predicted \$100,000 deficit this year.

In other actions, the board allocated \$13,700 in relief funds for projects in Brazil, Trinidad and the Philippines. It also allocated \$4,000 in hunger relief money to buy food for an agricultural school in South Brazil, where two periods of extremely hot, dry weather ruined the rice crops and then constant heavy rains made a bean crop impossible.

The board also voted \$50,000 to help buy a new machine for making backs for Bibles at the Bible Press in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and approved \$172,400 to help equip and finish out the new wing being constructed at its home office building in Richmond.

Besides the Swanns, the new career missionaries, their places of birth and assigned countries are Mr. and Mrs. Darrell W. Adams of Virginia and Michigan, respectively, to Portugal; Mr. and Mrs. Donald V. Brown, Germany and Massachusetts, to the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. James R. Burke, Missouri and Kansas, to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Cook,

grain of sand at the time," he said. Bob Ramsay, former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at Tupelo, who just entered full time evangelism, told the group that "the greatest crime committed against the blessed deacon is for him to worry about fixing all the windows and doors. That's for the laymen to do who aren't qualified to be deacons."

Ramsay said the purpose of a deacon has nothing to do with position. "The word is altogether identified with activity. It literally means to kick up the dust."

Leon Emery, director of the MBCB's pastoral ministries/church administration department, said that "nowhere in the New Testament does it say we need anyone to run the church. How we got into the board concept, I do not know."

Joel Haide, pastor of FBC, West Point, said that he's thankful for the

"benchwarmers." He was listing the ways deacons can be a part of the church ministry team. "Some of us feel that we have to go away or be involved in something big to minister," he said. "Little things day by day are what make ministry."

Here's a partial listing of his other suggestions deacons can be involved: proclamation: reading Scripture and leading in prayer in a worship service; preaching when and where needed: at mission points, nursing homes, jails, fire stations; welcoming visitors; visiting families; sponsoring a retreat for the church; telling others about Jesus.

Haide said if deacons do these sorts of things, it will make a "beautiful circle." He said the pastor will have more time to study and people will grow. And people will be better equipped to minister.

Choral Reading Session Scheduled

John Purifoy, editor of Choral Music for Word Music Company, one of the largest publishers of Choral Music in the world, will present a reading session of the new choral music at Holiday Inn I-55 North.

For the first time in Jackson, in what hopefully will become an annual event, John Purifoy will conduct a choral music reading session covering a broad range of the new choral music for fall and Christmas 1978. All Ministers of Music, Choir Directors, Children's Choir Directors, Choir Members and Music Teachers are invited to attend. The new music will be presented with a full orchestral background.

The choral music reading session will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn I-55 North. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee which will include dessert, coffee and the sample music packet which contains \$30.00 worth of music. For registration information please call 366-2695 or 969-6867.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Milwaukee (RNS) — The Office for Church in Society of the United Church of Christ, has called for a halt to plans to convert athletes' housing for the 1980 Winter Olympics to a medium-security Federal prison following the games. Calling it the "most remotely located Federal prison ever built," the agency joined others in calling for "a new vision of the Olympic Village which will use this housing for the training of future Olympic athletes or as a year-round recreational center."

St. Louis (RNS) — The Archdiocese Council of the Laity is promoting a boycott of neighborhood convenience stores which carry so-called "men's" magazines. "A massive all-out, ecumenical effort" is needed "to rid our country and our communities of this constant flow of obscenity and filth," a letter to area pastors and parish organizations said.

Taejon, Korea — Baptists working with a military evangelism ministry in Korea contacted 225,613 men in 1977, approximately 38 percent fewer men than in 1976. Money was a major factor in the decrease, according to Rolla M. Bradley, Southern Baptist missionary and supervisor of the program. Continual increases in cost of operations have meant fewer Koreans can be employed to work in the ministry, Bradley said. In a cassette tape ministry to servicemen, a decrease in the number of usable tapes contributed to reduced contacts with the men. More than 60 percent of the original tapes have been damaged or worn beyond use. Also, one of the more active servicemen's centers operated at a reduced level for seven months while it was being remodeled. Despite these problems, the military evangelism ministry reported 1,002 baptisms during 1977.

Provo, Utah (RNS) — Brigham Young University's Home Study Department, which now offers 542 courses, has been growing in enrollment at the rate of about 1,000 students annually for the last few years. It has about 9,000 enrolled now.

San Diego (RNS) — By a substantial majority vote, commissioners (delegates) to the 190th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church went on record here as opposing the ordination of avowed, practicing homosexuals.

Richmond (RNS) — St. Anthony's Catholic parish, a Maronite Rite church for some 200 mostly Lebanese families in the Richmond area, has sold its church property to the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. The pastor of the church, Bechara Salwan, said he didn't know he was selling to the Moon organization.

London (RNS) — In reporting the presence of Sun Myung Moon in London, the Times speculated that the controversial leader of the Unification Church might shift his headquarters from the United States to Britain.

Tulsa (RNS) — A district court judge has authorized evangelist Oral Roberts to proceed with construction of a 30-story hospital here pending a ruling on an appeal from the Tulsa Area Hospital Council. The Council has opposed construction of the facility, which is planned as an integral part of a \$100 million medical complex, on the grounds that nearly one-third of Tulsa's 2,944 hospital beds are empty at any one time and that the new facility would further reduce occupancy rates, thus driving up the cost of health care in the area.

Home Board Votes Personnel Changes

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board named C. Kirk Hadaway of Amherst, Mass., as research data management consultant and took several other personnel actions during the May meeting of the Board's executive committee.

Directors shifted two staff members, accepted a resignation, named four missionary associates, and approved 13 pastors for salary supplements.

Hadaway, completing doctoral studies in the sociology of religion at the University of Massachusetts, will join the staff, July 1. His responsibilities will include management of all data processing related to research projects, planning and programming research, and coordinating and analyzing computerized data research.

He grew up in Tallahassee, Fla., and Memphis, Tenn., and he is a graduate of Southwestern College and Memphis State University.

Two staffers — Peter Chen and Jerry B. Graham — were assigned to new responsibilities and another, Emory B. Smith, associate director of special missions ministries, resigned to become director of campus ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. He has been on the board staff since April, 1970.

Chen, who joined the board's staff, Dec. 1, 1976, as assistant director of the department of language missions, was reassigned as assistant director, department of interfaith witness, world religions.

Born in Shanghai, China, he has been affiliated with the board since 1951, when he was a student missionary in Augusta, Ga. In 1952, he moved to San Francisco as pastor of First Chinese Southern Baptist Church and Chinese Grace Baptist Church.

In his new post, "Chen will assist Southern Baptists to understand and bear an effective witness to adherents of non-Christian world religions, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhist, Bahai, and tribal religions

and their derivations," a spokesman said.

Graham, who also joined the staff in 1976, was reassigned from his post as associate director of associational administration services to associate directors, department of missionary personnel. He will assist in recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for missionary appointment.

He is a native of Randlett, Okla., and grew up in Plainview and Lubbock, Texas. Before joining the board staff, he directed missions in the Susquehanna Baptist Association, Aberdeen, Md., and served pastorates in Westminster and Sterling, Va., and Edna Hill and Seven Sisters, Texas.

Cherry Chang of Los Angeles, Calif., was appointed to serve as a catalytic missionary to the Chinese in California. Mrs. Chang, a widow of the former pastor of the Mandarin Baptist Church of Los Angeles, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Shanghai, a master of theology degree from the China Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

She is a native Chinese who taught in China before arriving in the U. S. She serves as a member of the board of directors for the Foreign Mission Board.

Patricia O'Brien of New Orleans will work as a social worker at Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center. She is a native of Cleveland, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Juan Vergara and his wife, Elsie, will serve in Puerto Rico, where he will be director of evangelism for Puerto Rico. Vergara, a native of Cuba, is a graduate of Tennessee Christian University. He has served as pastor of the Baptist Church in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and in cities in Texas.

Elsie Rodriguez Vergara, a Puerto Rican native, works as a clinical instructor in occupational therapy for the University of Puerto Rico.

Missionary To Delta Spanish Has "Invisible" Congregation

By Tim Nicholas

Frank Ruiz pulls his car up to a little white frame house with a dusty little front yard. It's already hot in the Mississippi Delta even in mid spring. A light breeze makes the coat and tie Ruiz wears more bearable.

He knocks at the door and a middle aged woman answers, inviting Ruiz and his companion in.

She seems mildly glad to see Ruiz, but nervously eyes the camera around the neck of the stranger. Ruiz explains that the newcomer is a reporter for the Baptists writing a story on his work and wanting a picture of some of the people Ruiz visits in the course of his ministry.

"No pictures"

Politely, but firmly, she refuses. "No pictures," she says, "the priest might see it."

The woman is a member of Frank Ruiz' "invisible" parish. There are dozens like her in the Mississippi Delta where Ruiz ministers to the Spanish speaking people whose families labor in the cotton industry.

Ruiz, a Southern Baptist missionary who has been assigned to the delta area in 1976, says some of those who are not afraid of the priest knowing that they talk with him, are afraid of the law. Some of the cotton workers are illegal aliens.

The fears make Ruiz' work even more difficult than it might be. His job is to seek out and establish ongoing ministries to the estimated 2,000 Spanish speaking people in the seven county Delta area around Cleveland.

Additionally, Ruiz is pastor of the Benjamin Burgos Memorial Mexican Baptist Church in Shelby, which was constituted last year. He is looking for a man to take over preaching responsibilities, so he can begin establishing work in other areas.

Ruiz is an appointee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Most of his local support comes from Bolivar and Riversides associations.

Typical Day

On a typical day Ruiz might visit three or four families. "I tell them I'm trying to minister to them, give them portions of the Bible, pray with them..." He says that 50 percent of the time he's not welcome at a person's home at first. "I'll stand at the door. Some are anxious to talk."

He always starts in Spanish — to establish that special contact. He says he's still learning Spanish. "After several visits, they'll ask me to pray for them, and are open about their spiritual condition," he says.

Ruiz feels a great need for the Spanish cotton workers is in literacy. Many cannot read Spanish or English. He says the Bible can easily be taught through a literacy ministry. "This would be a good project for a church," he says.

Other possibilities for ministry include a radio program Ruiz is working on getting started, and a newsletter for the Spanish community which he would circulate. The radio program would include Spanish gospel music, a message, and local news.

If he stays long enough, Ruiz says, he'll open a Mexican restaurant, "not only for myself, but to give the people a little appreciation of their heritage," he adds.

Ruiz struggles against a people who feel they have enough religion by being born Catholic. "I go to visit and they say 'I'm Catholic and don't want to be bothered by another religion.' But after two or three visits, they'll invite me in for coffee or tea."

Catholic Roots

Ruiz has a special understanding of Catholicism. He was reared in a Catholic home with 12 brothers and sisters. He went to a Catholic school in Toledo, Ohio, where he grew up.

He says he didn't have much religious training, but that he had deep roots and felt he had the only true religion. "I felt other religions were of the devil," says Ruiz. "This is still the feeling of many Catholics."

At age 28, Ruiz made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. He'd been invited to go to a Baptist church simply because a man had offered to pick him and his wife up. "I questioned the man's use of the Bible because he was not a priest, but I liked what I heard," says Ruiz. "After the third Sunday, I told my wife if it was true I could be saved, I'd give my life to Christ."

He says he had the same feelings when he accepted Christ as when he was released after 32 months as a prisoner of war during the Korean Conflict. "I felt a tremendous release of pressure," he says. But a week after his release, he was miserable. "I wondered if this would last," he says, "but it was permanent." He says his mother later said she wished all her children would change like he changed.

Two years later, the letter carrier, with four children, and only an 8th grade education, surrendered his life to the ministry. Now he and his wife Lois have six children, including an infant girl they just adopted.

In 1966, he went to Clear Creek Bible School in Kentucky. Six months before

graduation, he dropped out to attend the University of Toledo. "I was kind of running away from a ministry," he recalls. He'd been pastor of an Anglo church in rural Kentucky. From Toledo, he was called as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Adrian, Mich. There he served from 1969-76. From there he came to the Delta.

Ruiz is a member of Yale Street Baptist Church in Cleveland. He attends there on Sunday nights. "This church has made us feel close to the community," says Ruiz. "We feel we belong to something. If not for that, we'd really be in a fix."

Last fall, Ruiz crossed the Mississippi River into Arkansas to visit a community with seven Spanish families. "I told them I wanted to show a religious film and talk about Jesus," he says. He went back, thinking no one would show up and out of 28 Spanish

people in the area, 21 came to the service.

"I showed the film, preached, and the two oldest men gave their lives to Christ," he says. "When I left, all wanted Bibles, and asked me to come back," he says.

Ruiz' five year plan is to have at least five churches or missions and five Spanish departments in Mississippi by 1982. "This can be accomplished very easily by Mississippi Baptists," he says. Already there is work at Shelby, Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, and Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo.

He says it isn't necessary for a language worker to do the starting of a Bible study in a home or to begin a Spanish department. Anybody can do it. The important thing is to have regular Bible study. Says Ruiz, "It's the only way to win them."



Frank Ruiz, missionary to the Spanish, stands in the Delta breeze. His work is coordinated by the MBCB Cooperative Missions Department.

Pascagoula Fire Results



About 350 persons brought lawn chairs and held worship services next door to burned out Arlington Heights church on May 26. Pastor Joey Hancock (at podium) reported that the church will meet in Arlington Elementary School until the sanctuary can be rebuilt.



Paul Beck, 15, a member of Arlington Heights Baptists Church in Pascagoula, which was heavily damaged by fire May 26, holds a charred piece of a hymn book from the church. Another 15-year-old boy, not a church member, has been arrested on suspicion of arson, according to Joey Hancock, church pastor.

Retreat —

(Continued from page 1)

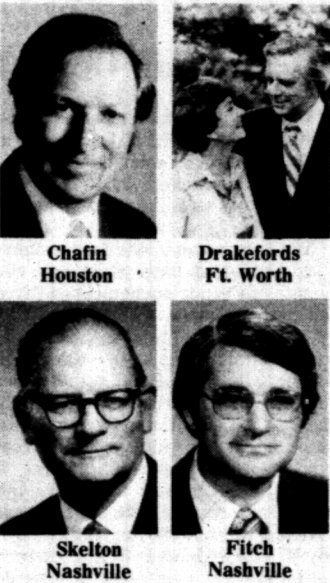
tally retarded she works with "usually responding to patient guidance. They tend to give love unstintingly."

She says they need special curriculum. She works primarily with the trainable mentally retarded. The educable mentally retarded are usually recommended to go in with their own age group in regular classes.

Doris Monroe, the Baptist Sunday School Board's consultant in work with the mentally retarded, has written the basic manual for the work, "A Christian Ministry to Retarded Persons."

She was on hand at the retreat to counsel with parents and teachers.

Miss George said attendance is steadily rising for the retreat. Several denominations participated.



**Sunday School
Mini-Sessions
Start July 31**

Olympics —

(Continued from page 1)

the "new kid on the block" here, Prickett spoke positively about development of the work.

"All the other denominations talked about being limited by budgets," he said. And while limited monetarily, Southern Baptists have a large volunteer force "ready to do whatever — waiting and ready to get with it."

Danny Sanchez, director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention of New York, said, "We plan to use evangelists, entertainers, young people to share around the Olympic complex with athletes and support personnel, as well as in hotels, in lobbies, in restaurants, outdoors — wherever we can get a foothold."

Yet, beyond the two-week period of the Olympic games, there is a more permanent interest in the town. The great majority of residents are unchurched. Prickett estimates a total of only 600 persons are members of churches.

Reminded Meek of New York, "Our bottom line concern is starting a new congregation at Lake Placid."

Exciting Bible Study! Teaching Methods! Video Cassettes! Observations! New Facilities! Sun and Sand! Fishing! Gospel Music!

Can all of these be related? YES — Sunday School weeks at Gulfshore offer all of these things. Pictured are some of the personalities giving leadership to the four mini sessions.

Dates for the Sunday School mini sessions are: July 22 - August 2; August 3-5; August 7-9 and August 10-12. Each session begins with evening meal — 5:30 p.m. and closes with noon meal.

Reservations should be made by writing Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Mississippi 39571. Detailed program information may be obtained by writing Bryant M. Cummings, Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

Nashville — "Designing Buildings for Church Growth" is the subject of a seminar to be held Oct. 9-12 at the Church Program Training Center, Nashville.

Pastor's Porn Fight Ends With Victory

PISMO BEACH, Calif. (BP) — With the passage of an "emergency ordinance" that has effectively stopped the showing of "XXX" movies in Pismo Beach, Larry Lorenz' 10-month battle has ended.

Lorenz, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in neighboring Arroyo Grande, has been spit on, kicked; verbally abused and assaulted with a crowbar since he began a concentrated effort against pornography in Pismo Beach.

He has most recently been threatened with a libel suit by Joe Songer, owner of the Central Coast Theater which showed "PG" movies during the day but "XXX" movies on week-end nights. Lorenz called the threat "just another of one of Songer's scare tactics."

Threat of a libel suit is not likely to scare off Lorenz whose church was shot at and who was assaulted in a picket line by an escaped convicted murderer with a crowbar. Pickets, who walked in front of the theater every weekend from Oct. 22, 1977 until the ordinance was passed at the end of April, were threatened and were the targets of indecent exposure.

Criticism of their efforts also came from some church members in the coastal area, including pastors who have not seen eye-to-eye with the public protest. There have been suggestions that "the reverend stay inside his church and preach the word of God instead of getting involved with community problems."

Lorenz attributes the passage of the ordinance to three new city council

members who ran with pornography as a major platform issue. The ordinance banned the triple-X films from Pismo Beach effective May 25 but the pornographic shows stopped immediately after passage, according to Lorenz, who said the Central Coast Theater was the only one in town showing the films and that there are no adult book stores there.

Lorenz is now turning his efforts toward the adult magazines displayed in and sold in local supermarkets and liquor stores.

CT Leadership Retreats Will Offer Personalized Guidance

More than six hours of personalized guidance will be offered in June to train Church Training leaders in how to be more effective. This training is available during either of two Church Training Leadership Retreats at Gulfshore, June 26-28 and June 29-July 1.

Kermit S. King, director of the Mississippi Baptist Church Training Department, said that the one major program feature will be age-division conferences led by some of the Sunday

School Board's best consultants plus outstanding personnel from Mississippi and Louisiana.

Jimmy P. Crowe, Bill Latham, and Dan Fowler of the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department will be leading general officers, adults, and workers with older children. Mrs. Florence Hearn, special worker with the Tennessee Church Training Department will teach preschool leaders. Mrs. Johnnie Painich, special worker with the Louisiana Church Training Department staff will lead a conference for youth leaders.

Conferences are provided for youth

and children of parents attending the Leadership training program. Space is still available. Send your reservation fee of \$3.00 to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Mississippi, zip 39571.

Sullivan's Cornbread And Pot Likker

James Sullivan opened himself up to scrutiny during talks at the Senior Adult Retreat at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Following are some of his comments.

On retirement: The hardest thing in retirement is to learn to sleep late. Now I don't get up until 6 a.m.

On things people taught him: Gaines Dobbins told us students that you can't pastor a church with more than 250 people and any church you pastor has someone who is a better Christian than you.

Sullivan once asked Dean W. H. Sumrall of Mississippi College what kind of preaching reaches his soul. Said Sumrall, "I like philosophy and sociology, but when I go to church I want cornbread and pot likker." Sullivan told the senior adults, "Since then, I've never used a word a junior boy didn't understand."

On being SBC president: The president ought to limit his tenure to one year and we ought to alternate between preachers and laymen.



Exchanging pictures of grandchildren is always an integral part of a retreat like this. Hattie Mae Parker of Hattiesburg, Nora Sanders of Carthage, and F. G. Graham of Jackson, proudly pass around their objects of joy.



"Miss Ed" Robinson, formerly director of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, tells of travel opportunities this summer.



James Sullivan, center, is greeted by participants during a reception at the retreat. Sullivan was a featured speaker for the retreat.

The Missions Task Jesus and Wealth

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department

To Jesus the world was not worth very much. He spent the early part of his earthly ministry calling men to give it up and "follow me." To one man he said, "Leave the dead to bury their dead; you must go and announce the kingdom of God." Another fellow said, "I will follow you, sir; but let me first say good-bye to my people at home." Jesus said to him, "No one who sets his hand to the plough and then keeps looking back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:49 par.)

To respond to the call of Christ was to make a complete break with the whole of one's past: family ties, parents, and occupation.

In response to Christ's call, Simon and Andrew "... at once left their nets and followed him." James and John left their father, their boats and nets "... and went off to follow him."

Simon Peter reminded Jesus on one occasion, "We here have left everything to become your followers" (Mk. 10:28). In the presence of temporal things, Jesus was presenting Ultimate Reality. In Mark 10, a young man aspired to follow Jesus. Our Lord directed him to dispose of his wealth by giving it to the poor. In the moment of decision, the young man refused to give up "one thing" that stood between him and complete surrender. Wealth was his god. He preferred mammon to God. He could not serve both so "he went away with a heavy heart; for he was a man of great wealth."

Jesus was saying to his followers, "If you want to follow me you must choose between the old life and the new. You must make a complete break with your past and come and follow me."

Jesus points out this truth in his parables of the hid treasure and the pearl of great price. Concerning the treasure in a field, the finder "for sheer joy went and sold everything he had and bought that field." When the merchant found the fine pearl, "he went and sold everything he had, and bought it" (Matt. 13:44-46).

Total commitment — that is what is demanded of Christian believers. He wants not a part, but the whole of our lives. Henceforth all that we have and are belongs to Him. The hearts of Christ's followers are to be set upon Him. One cannot be totally committed to Christ and material things. It is impossible to serve God and Mammon. One cannot have two absolutes. For his disciple, only Christ is Ultimate Reality.

"So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:33).

What is on the other side of complete surrender of all things to Christ's will? Our Lord points out in response to Peter's statement, "I tell you this: there is no one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother, father, or children, or land for my sake and for the Gospel, who will not receive in this age a hundred times as much — houses, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and land — and persecutions besides; and in the age to come eternal life" (Mk. 10:28-30).

What, then, is to be the Christian's response to calls for part or all of his possessions for the work of the kingdom? "For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give — large or small — will be used to measure what is given back to you" (Lk. 6:38).

The reason some Christians will forever be denied the richer blessings of God is due to their own perpetual choice of a "small" measure to use for their personal giving! Giving "a lot of money" for the wealthy does not necessarily mean large giving, for God measures the value of one's gift by what he has to give!

Think about it!

Mississippi's Magnificent Minority

This is a mid-year report of churches, training groups/departments, and associations which have to this date qualified for some level of recognition in the use of the Church Training Achievement Guide. At this point we are well ahead of last year.

This is an effort to congratulate the

leadership of these churches by giving such recognition.

One star in the Five Star Award Program is earned when a church attains some level of recognition in the use of the Achievement Guide. The Five Star Award certificate is presented at "M" Night.

Churches

ALCORN Calvary First Corinth Oakland Tate Street W. Corinth CARROLL Liberty (A) Mt. Olive CHOCTAW Hopewell COPIAH First Hazlehurst (A) GREENE Unity (D) HINDS-MADISON Briarwood Dr. Byram (D) F. Ridgeland (A) Southside	JEFF DAVIS Dublin White Sand JONES Bethlehem Plainway (A) Sandersville LAUDERDALE Grandview F. Meridian LAWRENCE Arm Crooked Creek LEBANON F. Hattiesburg (A) Ridgecrest LEE Belden Priceville W. Jackson St.	LINCOLN Mt. Moriah (A) New Prospect (A) LOWNDES Calvary (A) Mt. Zion Plymouth Southside MISSISSIPPI Liberty NEWTON Mt. Nebo NOXUBEE F. Macon OKTIBBEHA Calvary (A) PERRY Good Hope PONTOTOC Cherry Creek Ecu	QUITMAN Blue Lake (A) RANKIN Leesburg TISHOMINGO Calvary UNION COUNTY Pleasant Hill (A) WALTHALL Tylertown (D) WASHINGTON F. Greenville (A) WINSTON Macedonia YALOBUSHA F. Coffeeville (A) WEBSTER Mt. Zion Tomnolen (A)
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D—Distinguished

Alcorn
Adams

A—Advanced

Jackson (A)
Lawrence

No Indication—Merit

Lee
Wayne (A)

Associations

Training Groups/Departments

Priceville, Lee
3 Adult
Kreole Avenue, Jackson
1 Adult 1 Preschool
1 Youth 1 Children
Belden, Lee
1 Youth 1 Adult
F. Hazlehurst, Copiah

1 Youth
Plainway, Jones
1 Youth 2 Children
3 Adult
Harrisburg, Lee
1 Children
Byram, Hinds-Madison
6 Adult

Recognition request forms are available from your associational Church Training Director or from the Mississippi Church Training Department, Box 530, Jackson Ms 39205.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

A New Element . . .

Campaign For SBC Vice-President

A new element has introduced itself into Southern Baptist life this year, and that is speculation as to who will be elected as one of the vice-presidents. Previously there has been some amount of conjecture as to who will be the new president when a new one is to be elected. The vice-presidents, however, have been elected without much ado.

From some source this year comes the awareness that Anita Bryant is to be nominated for one of the two vice-president posts. The Baptist Record has tried to trace the information back to its source, but the path fades into

obscurity. The fact is there, however, along with the word that a spirited campaign in her behalf is to be expected.

Miss Bryant is to be admired. Her courage and her actions in Miami evidently touched off a series of decisions across the nation in which the residents of cities have announced that they will not accept avowed and practicing homosexuals in certain situations.

Such decisions as these are to be applauded. There are certain areas of life in which reason would dictate that practicing homosexuals have no busi-

ness being allowed. And it would not be a healthy condition to allow them to parade themselves openly before all the world as representing an alternate life style to that accepted by the masses as normal.

All that Miss Bryant has accomplished, however, does not seem to be a proper condition for the consideration for nomination as a vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Perhaps Miss Bryant would make a fine vice-president. There is no attempt here to judge whether or not that would be the case. If we elect her, how-

ever, let's do it on the basis of who and what she is as a person and not because she has been catapulted into national prominence from having been involved in an issue.

Also let us remember that the vice-presidents must preside from time to time, and sometimes this calls for being a pretty tough parliamentarian. Then in the unlikely event that something should happen to the president, the first vice-president would become president.

These are major factors that should be considered in the selection of the vice-presidents.

Twenty-Five Years . . .

Anne McWilliams' Anniversary

An important milestone in Mississippi Baptist life must be pointed out. Mrs. W. D. McWilliams, editorial associate on the Baptist Record staff, has completed 25 years of service to Mississippi Baptists through the ministry of this paper.

A great deal more than meets the eye goes into the production of a paper, and Anne does her share of the more difficult and unglamorous portions of the operation.

The Baptist Record has achieved the reputation of carrying more news of local churches than any other state paper in the nation, and we like that

distinction. This effort is carried out to a great extent on the shoulders of Anne McWilliams. She fashions the church items into news stories, and she puts together more than half of the paper at paste up time.

In addition to that she has become a regular columnist for the Baptist Record and she finds time to go out across the state to work on feature stories. She has begun to blossom lately as a photographer.

Her service in these areas frees the editor to delve into mundane though necessary business and administrative matters in addition to his news-

paper efforts and gives the associate editor opportunity to handle the bulk of the public relations efforts for the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Convention Board.

The Baptist Record must take time to pay tribute to this staff member and to recognize the great contribution she has made to Mississippi Baptists over a quarter of a century.

Anne is not really that old. She went to work here before she completed her seminary work, which she did finish, and has been here ever since.

Congratulations on this anniversary.



Witnessing In Israel . . .

Much Non-Information Available

One of the questions most interesting to Christians at this time concerning the Middle East revolves around the newly formed policy of Israel that makes it a criminal offense to offer any benefits for the changing of one's religion.

Recently five Southern Baptist state paper editors and W. C. Fields of the SBC Executive Committee had occasion to be in Israel on a tour of the Middle East and were privileged to have dinner as guests of Michael Givron, minister of information for Israel.

This issue was placed squarely before our host, and he must have suspected that it would be forthcoming. He talked for at least 45 minutes, and maybe longer, in response to the question; but he never answered it at all. He seemed to have mastered the art of dodging the issue.

Without saying so, he was really trying to give the impression that there is nothing to worry about; but he never quite said it. He spoke at length concerning the differences even in Jewish religious beliefs, but he never completely addressed his remarks to a specific analysis of the matter as it would involve Jews and Christians.

Of course, the new law has not received full-scale endorsement even among Jews. Israel is supposed to practice religious freedom, but the new law places a cloud of doubt on that issue. As it was originally drafted, the new law would have halted all missionary activity. It was introduced by ultra-conservative Jews, but it could not pass in its original form. It was toned down in the Israeli parliament.

Shortly before the visit by the editors a Jewish Christian leader was summoned to police headquarters for

questioning. According to a Baptist Press release, he was not accused of violating the new law; but Baptist representatives in the country fear that it was an act of harassment related to the new law.

The questions being asked are whether even an act of charity done to help a person of another religion can be legal and whether the gift of a Bible to one who is seeking to understand can be determined as being illegal.

We had hoped to be able to shed some light on the subject by talking to the minister of information. We listened intently as he talked, hardly interrupting him at all, but we learned little if anything. Perhaps he is not to be faulted for his inability or refusal to answer. Perhaps the issue is in such a state of confusion that he really did not know how to answer but did not want his listeners to come to that conclusion.

He really wanted to talk about the

situation of the Palestinian refugees, but when he could be interrupted in the midst of what seemed to be developing into another long discourse, the party broke up. Very likely, the Palestinian question is every bit as thorny as the one on religion; and the solution may be as varied as the number of persons questioned about it. There seems little doubt that a solution of the Palestinian matter could go a long way toward some sort of peaceful solution to Middle East tensions. A solution does not seem likely, however, since everyone wants the Palestinian issue settled on his own terms.

Contrast the dinner engagement and interview with Givron with another similar engagement in Israel with Mrs. Haya Fischer, the director of the Pilgrimage Division of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Mrs. Fischer is a very charming lady and very knowledgeable concerning tourism, a large part of the economy of

Israel. She is acquainted with several Mississippi pastors as a result of their trips to Israel.

She is aware of the fact that most trips to Israel are made from a religious interest, and she would like to see this practice flourish to an even greater degree. She sort of turned the tables on the interviewers and sought answers to her questions as to how Israel could serve as a better host to those who are interested in making religious pilgrimages. The Israel government had certainly made our group feel welcome by furnishing us a van, a driver, and a guide as well as paying all of our expenses while we were there. Perhaps Mrs. Fischer felt she was due a little cooperation in the way of information, and we spent a delightful evening with her.

Who knows? Maybe Givron's problem was that he didn't let us talk. Perhaps there is a lesson for all of us in that.

Letters to the Editor

Not Addressing Convention

Dear Editor:

I sincerely agree with Mr. George M. Roza of West Point as far as Ms Bryant. I didn't know she was in politics. But Mr. Carter is a different matter. He or any other President shouldn't be addressing our Southern Baptist Convention. Doesn't our Scripture state to keep state and church separated? If Mr. Carter wants to work for Christ, let him do it in his church place of worship, and let our ministers, deacons, and laymen do the speaking for our Southern Baptist Convention. They are supposed to be the guiding hands in our churches.

Why didn't convention authorities invite Ms Bryant to speak?

Ina Peters
Macon

Neither President Carter nor Miss Bryant will address the Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Bryant speaks to the Pastors' Conference before the Convention. The President speaks to the laymen's meeting following the convention. — Editor

Pentecost Sunday

SBC president Jimmy Allen's call to a national day of prayer on June 11 is commendable. It's a recognition that if Bold Mission succeeds, spiritual power is needed.

We had recognized this in Illinois, and before Allen's call, we noted May 14, which was Pentecost Sunday. The idea was so well received that Pentecost Sunday will become a fixed date on our state calendar.

As we researched the origins of

Best Place For WMU News

Dear Editor:

We have just completed our annual tally of the usage of WMU news in state papers.

The good news is that The Baptist Record is one of the best places that people can read about Woman's Missionary Union's concerns.

Please accept our thanks and pass the compliments along to your staff who helped squeeze in an exceptionally high volume of WMU coverage during the recent year.

We are especially grateful for coverage of weeks of prayer and special missions offerings. You do this in special ways, notably in printing the theme art in color.

It will be our pleasure to encourage WMUers in Mississippi to consult The

Baptist Record for the latest in missions news.

Mrs. Lee N. Allen
Assistant to the
Executive Director
Woman's Missionary Union

Appreciation For Medical Center

Dear Editor:

I would like to publicly commend Mississippi Baptists on their fine Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. On March 17 my mother, Mrs. Cecil Mills of Clara, Miss., underwent heart surgery at your Medical Center. Through prayer and the Lord guiding the hands of skilled doctors, the surgery was a success.

On the behalf of my parents and family, I would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and all the hospital employees for their kindness and helpfulness in our time of need. It is, when a person goes beyond the call of duty that they are noticed the most. I saw this at your hospital.

Mississippi Baptist have something to be proud of in their Medical Center, and I am sure you are as thankful as I am for it.

Tommy Mills, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Woodfield, Ohio

Anita Bryant Photo

Dear Editor:

A bouquet of roses to the photographer who created the beautiful picture of Anita Bryant on the front page this week.

Carolyn Ellis
Greenwood, Miss.

The photo was in Miss Bryant's press kit with no photo credit.—Editor.

DECALOGUE FOR EVERY DECADE

- I. "Thou shalt have some other gods before me."
- II. "Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor the likeness of any form that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."
- III. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."
- IV. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is a sabbath unto the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy ass, nor any of thy beasts, nor any of thy fowls, nor any of thy beasts that are in the field, nor any of thy beasts that are in the fold: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."
- V. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."
- VI. "Thou shalt not kill."
- VII. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
- VIII. "Thou shalt not steal."
- IX. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."
- X. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, nor his wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Floating Down The Ichetucknee

I'm the kind of athlete who was the substitute on the B basketball team, who could never connect the tennis ball with the racket, who in choosing sides games was always the last chosen.

But I can swim — and furthermore, I've travelled more than half the length of Florida's Ichetucknee River on an inner tube!

The 1972 Baptist Journalism Seminar was at University of Florida in Gainesville. Some Baptist state paper editors were there, some associate editors, personnel from Baptist Press, and some public relations people from various agencies and institutions.

The faculty was superior, the facilities were beautiful, the food was outstanding, and the fun, as described by W. C. Fields was of "fine variety, including that wild scene of intrepid journalists floating down the Ichetucknee on assorted inner tubes and in communication with nature among the bulrushes and button willows."

In search of unusual entertainment for a free afternoon, someone hit on the idea of a float trip. We rented tractor-sized tubes in Gainesville and drove to Ichetucknee State Park four miles northwest of Fort White.

The Ichetucknee River winds and meanders for seven miles, until it drains into the Santa Fe. We entered the stream at its source, where many springs bubble up from the bottom. In the next three hours, from two until five in the afternoon, we covered four and one-half miles at one and one-half miles per hour.

At the place where we would shove off, there were a lot of large grey boulders, just the right size for climbing up on in order to slide off onto the makeshift raft.

W. C. Fields of Nashville (former Baptist Record editor) and his wife Libby and daughter Becky led the line-up. Others following were Julian Pentecost and Mrs. Pentecost from Virginia; Bob O'Brien, then from Texas and now from Nashville; David Risinger of Texas; Sarah Rice from Judson College in Alabama — and a lot more people.

The idea was to sit on top of the inner tube and paddle with the hands. But two bends down the river I fell off and could not get back on without going back to the launching point. I didn't

have time to do that, for the others were drifting on ahead and I didn't want to make the journey alone.

Vegetation along the banks was so thick that it was impossible to land. Once you were on the way, it was like Idaho's River of No Return. There was no turning back. You had to keep going until you reached your destination. The only choice I had, then, was to stick my head and arms through the center of the tube and let my feet trail behind.

Soon my tube sprang a slow leak and gradually got flabbier and flabbier. Because of this, it would not pick up speed and I kept lagging along at the end of the party. No matter how hard I kicked I could never quite catch up with the others.

After I recovered from the first icy shock of the water and the problem of falling off my boat, I began to enjoy the scenery. The water was so clear I could see the fish and the underwater plants. The sun was shining through the willows at water's edge and birds kept flying about in the thickets beyond the willows. Occasionally clouds would sweep along overhead, like fluffs of cotton candy. Sometimes I'd hit a tiny whirlpool and swing around, and then be borne lazily on with the current.

Are there any snakes in here? I wondered. Or alligators? Finally I managed to draw my knees up into the inner rim so I could lean back and relax a little. By the end of two hours I was growing weary and began to feel the cold again. But I had made the plunge and I had to see it through. At the four and one-half mile point there was a landing spot, and others were waiting to welcome me ashore.

I triumphantly emerged, as happy as if I had conquered the rapids of the Colorado. Cars and station wagons were waiting to convey us back to the world of printed words — and hot meals.

No one can eliminate the risk factor in any of life's adventures. Certainty comes from experience. Doubts grow larger as people hold themselves back from commitment.

If I want to reach a point at some place farther down the river, I'll never make it if I keep standing on the rocks at the river's source. It calls for a leap of faith. I must plunge in and get going, and never turn back.

Book Reviews

I WANT SOMEBODY TO KNOW MY NAME by Cathy Meeks (Thomas Nelson, \$3.95, 153 pp.)

Cathy Meeks is a young black woman who is attempting to make a difference in the world by allowing the power and love of God to transform her daily. Born into poverty she has struggled to find her identity. Through pain, loneliness, and the anguish of waiting, she has emerged deeply committed to God. (She is now assistant dean of women at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.) John Perkins of the Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson, wrote in the Foreword, "I recommend that you read I WANT SOMEBODY TO KNOW MY NAME. The book shows how the reconciling power of God can ascend color barriers and help to make the body whole."

AFTER THE WEDDING by Philip Yancey (Word Books, 160 pp., \$5.95) Nine couples tell how they survived the most dangerous years of marriage.

The book is adjustment-centered, with each story being followed by a discussion of problems described by the couple. Also included are interviews with two couples happily married for many years — Charlie and Martha Shedd and Paul and the late Nellie Tourner.

THE PUPPET MASTER by J. Isamu Yamamoto (Intervarsity Press, paper, 136 pp., \$3.95) This book is a report of an inquiry into Sun-

Myung Moon and the Unification Church. Who is Moon? What does he teach? What is life like for a follower of Moon? The author has not only interviewed many present and former members of the movement, but he has also conducted a thorough research of both the public statements and the inner teachings of the Unification Church. His book that will be helpful to Christians in knowing how to respond to this movement.

SERIOUSLY, LIFE IS A LAUGHING MATTER by Tom Mullen (Word, 100 pp., \$4.95) Here is a funny book with a serious theme. Tom Mullen looks at life and finds it good. His 22 chapters range in topics, from the garage sale to death. In life's common experiences he sees material for laughter, and at the same time extracts profound truths.

CAN YOU LOVE YOURSELF? by Jo Berry (Regal books, paper, \$2.95, 159 pp.) The hardest thing for many people to do is love themselves. Lack of self-esteem is a problem at all age levels. Mrs. Berry offers no easy answers, but she believes this book contains biblical principles that can help you think and feel better about yourself. Her practical ideas include how to analyze your present self-image; how to handle failure, how to cope with depression; and how to develop a God-oriented self-image.

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Couple Leaves Bible Belt And Sees Churches Fight To Grow

By Mark Smith
MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Responding to a call to "get out of the Bible Belt" and help where Southern Baptist churches are struggling, retired couple Fred and Lillian Dea pulled up and headed west.

In September, 1977, they loaded everything they would need into their Oldsmobile and began an 1,800 mile journey from their home in Wichita Falls, Texas, to the San Francisco Bay area in California. They were heading for an area where no more than 10 percent of the 4.5 million people attend church.

Things went even better than expected for the Deas. They made arrangements to stay at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley until they could find an apartment and part time jobs to supplement their retirement income.

That didn't take long. The day following the arrival, Lillian took a job as a secretary to an area missionary in the small town of Vallejo about 40 miles north of San Francisco. Fred found an apartment the next day and two days later, without even looking for work, he was offered a job as an electrician's helper.

Dea began substitute teaching in Sunday School at North Hills Baptist Church and Lillian worked with the

fourth, fifth and sixth grade children. "Later the pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church, which is nearby, asked if we would also help his church from time to time. So we began going to both churches, doing anything that was needed," Dea said. "At Hillcrest, Lillian taught married young people and I continued to substitute. We participated in their visitation programs and cooked the meals for some of their visitation suppers."

"We learned a lot about the people out here and about ourselves as well," Lillian confirmed. "In those two churches in Vallejo, we felt like the spirit of the people was just great and we found them to be more enthusiastic than most of the people back in Texas. They may be fewer in number, but we felt a more enthusiastic spirit than we felt at home."

"People out here seem to be more dedicated and take their religion more seriously. These churches are fighting to grow. I think our people back home have just gotten used to the big, powerful church as a way of life, something they have grown up with," Dea declared.

People involved in church work weren't the only ones that intrigued the Deas.

"People in general out here are very friendly," Dea said. "We came to California with the expectation of finding a resistance to the Christian movement. But in visiting with the churches and enlisting prospects, the worst thing we found was an indifference to Christians, not antagonism. People just simply don't care."

"I feel that the Christian folks out here must be extremely dedicated people, because it is so hard to enlist new members into the church from the community because of the indifference."

In December, the Deas quit their jobs in Vallejo and moved to Mill Valley to accept a temporary position as assistant managers in the women's dormitory and guest housing at the seminary. Their pay was their apartment plus \$125.00.

Golden Gate Seminary President William M. Pinson Jr., who used to be

the Deas' pastor in Texas, sees their coming as the "front wave of a sea of people," part of the Missions Service Corps (which plans to put 5,000 volunteers besides missionaries at home and abroad by 1982) who will come out of the Bible Belt to help the people of the West.

The Deas are back home in Wichita Falls now, but they say they feel somehow it isn't the same. They admit they will think often of the small California churches where they worked and will let others know of the need there. "I can certainly state the need," Dea said.



Fred and Lillian Dea of Wichita Falls, Tex., work on one of several pieces of furniture they reupholstered at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary while serving as temporary missionaries in the San Francisco Bay Area. (BP) PHOTO By Mark Smith.

Summer Festival Will Center On Religion In Rural Life

With invitations out to top ranking religious, community, educational, government and business leaders, the twenty-five member interdenominational steering committee for the Festival on Religion in Rural Life adjourned its recent planning session.

The event, scheduled for July 31-August 3, 1978, is expected to bring 5,000 participants from across Canada and the United States to the Indiana Convention-Exposition Center in Indianapolis.

With a goal of creating new visions of rural life the program is built around issue forums, skill and model seminars and celebrative events. People from all walks of life will participate in crossing the cultural barriers which exist throughout Canada and the United States.

A town square will illustrate the past, present and future of rural life. The evenings will be given to celebrative events: a musical drama presenting the town and country church movement, a national political figure dealing with current issues affecting rural life and a panel looking into the future.

Living exhibits and a variety of worship opportunities will broaden the horizons of the participants. Youth programs and child care will be provided.

While the program will deal with the realities of human suffering in rural areas, the values of rural life will be placed in focus.

The anticipated benefits from the Festival are that church leaders will learn how to work together and with others for improving rural life. New models for collaborative ministries

will be developed. Leadership training programs will be improved and expanded and a coalition network of rural people and organizations will be formed.

S. C. Legislators Defeat Parimutuel

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP) — A proposal urging a constitutional amendment which would permit parimutuel betting on horse racing in South Carolina was killed 66 to 31 without debate by the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Baptist leaders were among those who led the fight against the proposal which would have set aside any

parimutuel revenues to primary and secondary education. Opponents declared evidence proves legalized gambling increases crime and corruption and does not produce economic benefits.

State Representative David McInnis, D-Sumpton, S. C., sponsor of the resolution, promises to reintroduce the proposal next session.

Former Coach Will Start Six Sunday Schools In Arizona

By Bracey Campbell

CHANDLER, Ariz. (BP) — Don Reed turned down a request a year ago to organize some new Sunday Schools in this community adjacent to Phoenix, Ariz., but now he and his staff at First Baptist Church plan to start not one, but six new ones before September.

Originally, Reed, the pastor, told Sunday School Board consultant, Howard Halsell, that his congregation and staff were neck-deep in a self-help building program and didn't have time to do a good job in other areas.

But now the former basketball coach and his staff say they see their way clear to help start the new Sunday Schools as part of Southern Baptists Bold Mission Thrust goal to tell everyone in the world about Christ by the close of the century.

"Our staff and people have had more than we could handle over the last three years in the relocation of our church and the construction of this plant," said Reed, a native Texan, whose church is still building. "But now the time has come to reach out beyond our present limits and spread God's word in this area."

"I don't know of any other pastor or church that has taken on such an ambitious goal," said Halsell, whom Reed asked to return to the community to help. The Sunday School Board will

supply lesson materials and other program assistance for the fledgling Sunday Schools, which may grow into churches.

The Chandler church has selected six sites in the Hightown, Stella Park, Norton's Corner, Williams Air Force Base and Arizona Boys' Ranch areas and has begun initial work to launch the Sunday Schools, according to educational director, Larry Jordan.

"We're not going to be content just to go in and get a group organized and then pull out. There have been too many average Southern Baptist Sunday Schools and churches started," Reed added.

The pastor said the goal was to give the Sunday Schools an excellent foundation with a "mind for missions" upmost at every location. "Our basic philosophy in beginning these Sunday

MEETINGS

Atlanta (BP) — Plans have been announced for the fifth annual Southern Baptist Convention Joggers' Jubilee, June 13, in Atlanta, to promote jogging as a means toward physical fitness. E. Eugene Greer of Dallas, general coordinator, said the annual event will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Lakewood Stadium.

Nashville, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has preregistered more than 4,850 "messengers" to the annual meeting of the SBC, June 13-15, at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Callaway Gardens, Ga. (BP) — About 200 faculty and administrators from the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries will participate in a joint meeting at Callaway Gardens, Ga., June 8-11. Landrum Leavell, chairman of the presidents' group of the six seminaries, said the retreat is the first such activity in recent years in which seminary representatives have gathered to discuss "matters that are of great concern to all of the seminaries."

Atlanta (BP) — A discussion of research needs of Southern Baptists and election of officers will highlight the meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship on June 10 in Atlanta. The three-hour opening session starts at 1 p.m. at the Home Mission Board with a night session planned around a meal at the Riviera Hyatt House Motel.

Nashville — "Vital Issues in Deacon Ministry" will be explored in a National Deacon Ministry Seminar to be held Aug. 11-12 in Nashville. The conference is targeted to deacons, wives, pastors and church staff persons.

Minister Is Jailed

(Picture on Page 1)

Bryan Harris, minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Columbus recently held a "Catacomb Fellowship." Harris wanted the group of young people to experience the type of persecution that may have occurred in Rome in the first century.

They met in a tombstone factory (with the owner's permission) by candlelight in the midst of tombstones.

At a previously arranged time, the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department broke in and arrested the group for "worshipping in a public place."

At the jail, Harris and other adults were separated from the youths who were incarcerated for about 45 minutes.

They returned to the church for a time of sharing. "About a dozen," said Harris, believed the event was real. "One common comment," said Harris, "was that all gained a deep appreciation for our religious freedom."

Sunday School

(Continued from page 1)

studies, should save the Sunday School Board about \$40,000 annually.

Two pilot films for the correspondence program — "At Home with the Bible" — have already been filmed and test-marketed at a cost of \$250,000.

The filming of the next 11 episodes of the series, featuring Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., as Bible teacher, will begin in July at the Radio and Television Commission studio.

Missionary Follows In Paul's Footsteps—Through The Air

By Ruth Fowler

KAVALA, Greece (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Norman N. Burnes III follows in the apostle Paul's missionary footsteps once a month when he comes to the ancient city of Kavala — except Burnes doesn't walk. He flies.

Burnes is pastor of the English-language church in Athens, the city where Paul preached his Mars Hill sermon where he revealed the unknown God. The Athens congregation is made up of military and businessmen's families. It was the wife of one of these men who first asked Burnes to make the trip from Athens to Kavala, near ancient Philippi.

Many are the families of men stationed with Voice of America near the Turkish border and some hadn't attended a worship service in years.

When plan connections are impossible, Burnes takes a bus to an airport in Thessalonica.

Paul's first journeys were long and hard. Even today, Burnes has found that the trip requires days away from his family. Sometimes it means not getting home until only a few hours before he must preach again, without benefit of a night's sleep.

But the Burneses have decided that it's worth it. Some of the people coming to the services in Kavala have never been to a Christian church. Some are the Buddhist wives of American servicemen.

For Shirley Smith, who made the initial request, Burnes' visits are an answer to prayer.

She and her husband Frank, on the Voice of America staff, have maintained a Bible study and always try to

Ramsay Resigns, Will Enter Evangelism

Bob N. Ramsay announced his resignation as pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, on May 28. He plans to enter the field of evangelism and related ministries.

One of the highlights of Ramsay's Calvary ministry has been the financial growth and stewardship development; the budget has increased from \$202,000 in 1969 to \$355,000 in 1978.

Nashville — A seminar for youth leaders to improve the Bible study program for youth will be held in the church program training center of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Aug. 21-25, 1978.



Ramsay

Supreme Court Rules On Porno Standards

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that communities may consider the views of local adults and "deviant sexual groups," but not the reactions of children in setting community standards of obscenity.

The action came on an appeal by a California man who was convicted for mailing obscene materials and advertising. He charged that the jury had been wrongly instructed to consider "young and old, men, women and children" in determining what was offensive according to community standards.

"We elect to take this occasion to make clear that children are not to be included for these purposes as part of the community" as that term relates to "obscene materials," Chief Justice Warren E. Burger said in the majority opinion.

The majority reasoned that the views of children should not be considered in determining the community standards on pornography because the inclusion of children would result in a stricter standard of acceptability than if only adult tastes were considered.

POWERLINE

FORCED MARRIAGE

A characteristic of immaturity is demanding too much too soon and choosing an irresponsible plan.

My boyfriend and I are in love and we want to get married. We both are under age and our parents won't sign the consent forms. We are thinking of getting me pregnant so that they will have to let us marry. Is there any other way to persuade our parents?

While it may be true that your feelings for one another are strong, this is a characteristic of adolescent romance. If you care for one another, you will do what is best for both of you: give yourselves time to grow up before you take on the heavy responsibilities of marriage and parenthood.

You cannot predict your parents' response. They may not play by your rules. They could insist that you have an abortion or that you be sent to a home for unwed mothers. They could in most states file statutory rape charges against your boyfriend. Why not look for a more reasonable solution to your unhappiness?

Build better lines of communication with your parents. Do some listening as well as talking. Compromise with them on some things. For example, continue to date this boy, but date others as well. Postpone any immediate plans for marriage until you have completed your education and established yourselves in careers. Talk with a counselor to discover more about yourself, your motivations, your alternatives. And seek God's guidance in this and all your decisions.

A weekly radio program for youth broadcast nationwide by So. Baptist Radio-TV Commission. For information write POWERLINE, Fort Worth, Texas 76116. Dr. J. P. Allen, Director, Audience Response

Humanitarian's Agency To Launch Mercy Ship

LOS ANGELES (BP) — World Vision International, a Christian humanitarian agency, will launch a mercy ship to assist hundreds of Vietnamese boat refugees fleeing Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Called "Operation Seasweep," a 345-ton, 188-foot, LST-type landing ship will cruise the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand providing refugees with food, water, medicines, clothing and personal hygiene items, according to group president Stan Mooneyham.

A medical doctor, two nurses and two mechanics will be on the ship. The mechanics will attempt to repair the makeshift boats in which about 1,500

people from Vietnam alone make their dash for freedom each month.

Reports indicate 5,000 boat refugees are on the high seas at any given time. The boats are overcrowded, with little water, food or fuel. They are easy targets for pirates who rob, rape and sometimes murder the refugees. Some Southeast Asian countries are not permitting the boat people to land.

"While the nations of Southeast Asia and the West argue about what to do with them, the suffering of these victimized people has gone unsolved and unsolved," Mooneyham said. "The conviction has been growing in me that since God cares for the refugees, He wants to do something to help them."

Fighting Does Not Stop Baptist Survey In Zaire

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Fighting in the Shaba Province of Zaire forced the cancellation of a flight which two Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials planned to make into that area.

But otherwise it had no major effect on their survey in Eastern Zaire of the possibility of Southern Baptist missionaries beginning work in Zaire.

John Mills, the board's secretary for West Africa, reported by telephone from Nairobi, Kenya, that he and Billy

L. Bullington, West Africa's field representative, had to enter Zaire by land from the neighboring country of Rwanda. Originally, they had planned flights to four cities in Zaire aboard local airlines.

Mills said they stayed within Zaire's eastern region and did not come in contact with any military action. A scheduled stop in Lubumbashi, the capital of Shaba Province, was cancelled after internal airline flights in Zaire were stopped.

Schools will be to start strong and stay strong," Reed said.

Plans call for converting three of the Sunday Schools to churches after gaining sufficient members and momentum, he said, noting that partial staff for them will come from his 1,500-member congregation which has doubled in enrollment in seven years.

The other staff members will come from Baptists in the areas the Sunday Schools will serve. "We know that it will be more effective to find and train workers who live in the Sunday School areas," said Jordan. "This will not be a slipshod operation; we plan to go out and say what God wants us to say."

"This is open territory for Southern Baptists," Reed said. "There's so much to be done."

Volunteer Ministries

Following are some of the trips planned by Mississippi Baptists this summer:

Ten people from Wayne County and seven from Clarke are going to Ecuador in August and in September, respectively, to aid Missionary James Gilbert in carpentry projects.

Janet Jordan of FBC, Jackson, is going in July to Metro New York to set up an associational library and train church librarians. 5,000 volumes of the books collected last November by Baptist men in Mississippi will be shipped there. The rest of the books collected await distribution.

Eight to ten people from FBC, Clinton, are going in August to Wamsutter, Wyo., as one of three groups which will help construct a building for a Southern Baptist church which has none.

Floyd Tidworth, director of missions for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, reports that several Mississippi groups are going to his state this summer for special projects.

A group from FBC, Yazoo City and Harrisburg in Tupelo will go to help put up an addition to FBC, Chester, and help start new work in Sherrard.

A group of ministers from Tishomingo association will work in Greenville, W. Va., helping with Vacation Bible Schools and remodeling the present chapel building.

And Oakhurst Baptist Church in Clarksdale will be working with a mission in Wayne County, W. Va.

Nashville — A "Career Librarians Seminar" is scheduled for June 19-23 in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center here. Designed for both paid library workers and volunteer directors of large media centers, the focus of the seminar will be on the media center director's role as administrator.

Atlanta — The sixth annual National Campers on Mission Rally will be held Aug. 4-6 in Myrtle Beach, S. C., often called the "camping capital of the world." More than 125 family units, or 500 persons, were expected to participate in the weekend activities at the Lakewood campground.

5,500 Decide For Christ In Uruguay

By Wally Poor
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (BP) — More than 5,500 persons made decisions for Christ in a series of evangelistic rallies which may result in doubling the size of some churches if follow-up efforts succeed.

The central crusade, conducted by evangelist Luis Palau, resulted in 2,786 decisions over nine nights at Placio Penarol in Montevideo. Another 2,800 made decisions in earlier "Satellite" crusades in five interior cities.

Throughout the months of campaign preparation, Palau's team members stressed conservation of the results. Most churches visited the persons making decisions within 48 hours.

Some churches may double in size if successful in adding the new believers to their membership. The 14-year-old Bethesda Baptist Church, currently with 82 members, received 85 names. Historic First Baptist Church, founded by Southern Baptist missionary J. C. Quarles in 1911, with a current membership of about 165, received 150 names.

Besides nightly message at Palacio Penarol, Palau had a half-hour phone-in television program. Consultation centers were set up in three areas of the city, including the Baptist Communications Center. A network of 31 radio stations carried the crusade live in all of Uruguay and Argentina and parts of Paraguay and Brazil.

More than 8,500 jammed Palacio Penarol the last night, reportedly the largest evangelistic gathering ever assembled in Uruguay. One satellite city, Parysando, also reported the largest gathering of persons for any religious function ever held there.

(Wally Poor is Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Uruguay.)



Happy Ninetieth, WMU, SBC —

— Juliette Mather (l) and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC cut the "birthday" cake in celebration of WMU's 90th year. Woman's Missionary Union was founded on May 11, 1888, in Richmond, Virginia. Miss Mather joined the WMU staff in 1921, just before national offices moved from Baltimore to Birmingham, Alabama, and served in two capacities until her retirement in 1957. (WMU photo)

Baptist Memorial Is Largest Private Hospital In The U.S.

Baptist Memorial Hospital was established in 1912 and is owned by the Baptist Conventions of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. It is the largest private hospital in the United States, the second largest of all hospitals (including governmental) in terms of number of patients admitted and number of patient beds, and the largest of all general hospitals in terms of average daily census.

Baptist Memorial Hospital serves as a major referral center for the five state Mid-South Region; fifty-two percent of the patients admitted this year resided outside of Memphis and Shelby County.

A complete range of progressive patient care facilities allows BMH to offer almost any modern medical procedure. The medical staff, recognized as one of the finest in the country, includes practitioners in most medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties. In recent years BMH has developed into a center for diagnosing and treating patients with cardiovascular disorders. The neurosurgical and orthopedic services rank among the largest in any general hospital. While developing these extensive services, BMH has experienced the lowest cost per patient day of any U. S. health care facility operating more than 1,000 beds.

Baptist Memorial Hospital's Lamar Rehabilitation Center includes units for spinal cord injuries, stroke and neurological disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, and outpatient renal dialysis. Baptist Memorial Hospital-East, a 400 bed satellite facility, is due to open in early 1979.

In addition to comprehensive patient care services available 24 hours a day, the hospital maintains a large and varied medical education program and a diversified program of medical research.

The Christian concepts of healing and teaching are fundamental to Baptist Memorial Hospital as it strives to care for the total person — body, mind, and soul. Such social commitment is evidenced by the largest charity program of any private hospital in the South.



Taking honors at the "Old Fashioned Day at Wesson Church as being dressed most representatively of the past, are from left, front row, Andy Hutson, Cindy King, Julie Wilkinson, Mary Anna Beall; back row, from left, Mary Kyzar, Ken Stringer, pastor, Wanda Stringer, and F. K. Horton Jr. Each winner was presented a Bible book marker.

Wesson Celebrates Old-Fashioned Day

Wesson Church celebrated "Old Fashioned" day on April 30, in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Special emphasis was given to old songs, "old fashioned" dress, Bible preaching, and "dinner on the ground," including homemade ice cream.

Mrs. Earl Stringer, W.M.U. Centennial chairman, was in charge of the special activities. Mrs. Minnie Smith was recognized as the person serving the most terms as W.M.U. leader of the

Wesson Church.

Special interest tables containing old Bibles, a history of Wesson Church W.M.U., articles of by-gone days, and a cake made and decorated by Mrs. Clifton White with the colors and emblem of the W.M.U.

Mrs. Earl Stringer presented the pastor, Ken Stringer, a key chain with the W.M.U. emblem.

A handmade quilt, made by the women of the W.M.U., was presented to the pastor and his family.

Israel's Masada Is Starting Point For July 4 'Baptist Hour' Sermon

"Masada shall not fall again," a rallying cry for modern Israelis, is highlighted in a July 4 "Baptist Hour" sermon.

Frank Pollard of Jackson, "Baptist Hour" host, uses the Masada as a starting point for his July 4 sermon on

the nationally-syndicated radio show. Pollard recorded a series of "Baptist Hour" sermons on a recent tour of the Bible Lands.

"The Baptist Hour" is produced and distributed by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Hong Kong Missionaries Visit Mainland China As Tourists

HONG KONG — For the first time since the 1950 Communist take-over, four Southern Baptist missionaries have visited mainland China. The missionaries, who serve in Hong Kong, toured the cities of Canton and Kweilin in southeastern China.

Three of the missionaries went with groups of Chinese-language students; the fourth entered the country with her daughter's school class. They reported that they experienced considerable freedom of movement and freedom in taking pictures, according to George H. Hays, Southern Baptist Foreign

Mission Board secretary for East Asia.

When questioned about religious activities, their guides told them that no religious organizations were meeting in China, Hays said. The missionaries reported seeing several church buildings boarded up or being used for other purposes.

"Contacts with Chinese Christians cannot be attempted at this time for fear of jeopardizing their safety," says Hays. "Still even these superficial contacts can be used of the Lord to assure our Christian brethren of our love and concern."

250 Attend County Line's Sesquicentennial

County Line Church near Crystal Springs in Copiah County celebrated its 150th birthday on May 28 with homecoming, speeches, and dinner on the ground.

At least 250 attended, some coming from Pennsylvania, Colorado, Virginia, Louisiana, and Georgia. The program began at 10 a.m. and ran straight through until 2:30. Roger Stacy, pastor, presided.

A 27-page book was released, containing the history of the church. Copies were distributed to all present.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivered the closing message, talking about "The Contents of the Ark of the Covenant." Taylor Wallace of Enterprise, former pastor at County Line, preached at the morning service, on "Little Things."

Other former pastors on program were L. C. Hoff, now pastor in Arkansas; R. J. Sweetman, now pastor in Georgia; and Howard McLemore of Macedonia Church, Simpson County. Special music was presented by Laury Lawrence, Mrs. Bobbie Davis, the church choir, Mrs. R. J. Sweetman, Mrs. Howard McLemore, and Tommie McLemore.

The church was constituted January 4, 1828, with five members and their first pastor, Nathan Morris. Since that time it has had 33 pastors.

The history of the church was compiled by Mrs. Mary Alice Bennett Collee.

In 1920 the church joined with Pilgrim's Rest Church in securing a pastor's home for their shared pastor. Twenty-six years later this was sold and County Line built its own pastorage.

In 1946 County Line dedicated a new church building.

Mrs. Collee found in her research that the church has maintained a re-

cord "which is not only a valuable source of historical, sociological, and genealogical information for most of southern Mississippi."

The prime fallacy to pessimism is that no one knows enough to be a pessimist. — Norman Cousins

References to weather conditions as to the cold of the winter of 1899; to sickness as in the yellow fever epidemic of the early 1900's and the flu epidemic of 1918; to history during the Civil War; and to economic circumstances of the depression years — all make the history of County Line Church an invaluable source for research" on County Line and Mississippi.

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Applications are now being received for the position of Manager for the new \$2.2 million camp being built by Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association. Experience in camp management is preferred. Persons interested may send a resume to: NWLBA Personnel Chairman, P. O. Box 5518, Shreveport, Louisiana 71165.

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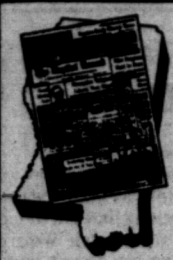
Staff Changes



Locust Street Church, McComb, has called Thomas Wicker as pastor. Wicker and wife, Ruby Nell (Alexander) and children, Mark, Eric, and Joy, moved from the pastorate of Bethel Church, Woodland, on May 22. While pastor of Bethel, Wicker was moderator of Chickasaw Association. He is a graduate of William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary.

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Type	Nonprofit General
Number of Beds	1,907
Employees (4,740 Full-time, 310 Part-time)	5,050
Number of Bassinets	90
Patient Admissions	58,924
Births	4,389
Average Length of Stay (Excluding Newborn)	9.03 Days
Emergency Room Visits	37,107
Surgical Operations	36,433
X-Ray Examinations	185,682
Laboratory Procedures	4,097,752
Pounds of Laundry	9,273,550
Patient Meals Per Day	3,765
Medical Staff	857
Average Daily Cost of Operating Hospital	\$240,943.82
Free Services (excludes Medicare and Medicaid allowances and bad debts)	\$4,892,866.00
Educational Programs	
School of Nursing	254
Resident Training Program	80
Intern Training Program	36
Practical Nurse Program	40
School of Radiographic Technology	30
School of Radiation Therapy	3
School of Nuclear Medicine Technology	10
School of Medical Technology	16
School of Medical Laboratory Technicians	9
School of Operating Room Technology	15
School of Respiratory Therapy	7
Chaplaincy Program	2
Residency Program in Health Care Administration	2
Total Students	504



Just For The Record



FIRST CHURCH, CARRIERE recently had Pastor Appreciation Day and presented their pastor, Wm. Gary Smith, a new LTD Ford. As a gesture of love for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Smith of Bailey, the pastor requested that they receive the keys to his new car on his behalf. Tommy Pearson (l), chairman of the car fund, and A. R. Sumrall (r), chairman of deacons, made the presentation. This is the third new car the church has given Smith during the 13 years he has served as pastor there.



RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION WMU recently elected the following as officers for 1978-1979 (left to right) Mrs. Charles Leach, Girls in Action; Mrs. T. O. Buckner, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Richard Rollins, director; Mrs. J. E. Christman, Baptist Women; Mrs. Les Jacob, Baptist Young Women; Mrs. Danny Prater, associate director; Mrs. Glenn Sullivan, Mission Action; Mrs. Asbury Martin, Acteens; and (not shown) Mrs. Tom Higginbotham, Mission Friends.



ENON CHURCH IN CLAY COUNTY near Montpelier celebrates an anniversary this month. The congregation has been worshipping in a new sanctuary for one year. The brick building has a baptistry, six Sunday school rooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, and nursery. Donald Pounders is the pastor.



OLE MISS BAPTIST STUDENT UNION prepared Exam Survival Kits for Ole Miss students and distributed them in the dorms. The kits which consisted of fruit and candy were purchased for the students by their parents. BSU members got to meet new friends as they delivered the packages; parents were able to send a message of care and concern at exam time, recipients had goodies to munch on as they studied; and the BSU was able to raise funds for a bus which is needed. Pictured from left, Robbie Pitts, Spencer Mooney, and Jerry Vance.

Moody Adams, Preacher

Rankin County Leaders Plan Crusade At Pearl

Plans are being made for the Moody Adams "Crusade For Christ" June 25-July 2 at the Pearl High School Stadium.



Adams, from Baker, La., will speak nightly at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 p.m. The local crusade executive committee consists of Howard Benton, Chairman; Curtis Williams, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Mary Ray, Secretary; Mrs. Shirley McEwen, Treasurer; M. F. Duncan, Finance; J. C. Renfro, Counseling; Vaughn Galloway, Publicity; Danny Brock, Music; John Toll, Arrange-

ments; Wilson Brent, Prayer; James Neatherland, Outreach; Marvin Alford, Ushers; and Jearl Amason, Telephone.

Scheduled topics in Pearl are: Sunday, June 25 — "God's Last Call To America." Monday — "Armageddon: The World's Last War." Tuesday — "Homosexuals: Will They Get Your Children?" Wednesday — "The Bridge Of No Return." Thursday — "Courtship, Love and Sex." Friday — "The Latest Signs of Christ's Return." Sunday — "Witchcraft Comes To Mississippi."

GRACE CHURCH, LAUREL, celebrated its first anniversary on June 4 with homecoming and dinner on the grounds.



Mac Parker, pastor, preached at the morning service. Maurice Flowers, Jones County director of missions, delivered the afternoon message. Different groups presented special music in the afternoon.



SILOAM CHURCH, FRANKLIN ASSOCIATION, dedicated its new pastorium and had open house on May 7. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dillon gave the church two acres of land for the home, while J. H. Kyzar was pastor. On February 11, 1978, the new pastor, Dale Wilson and his wife moved into the completed home. The house has three bedrooms, living-dining room, two baths, den with fireplace, kitchen-breakfast area, double carport, patio and guest bedroom with private bath and private entrance. It is the first time Siloam has had a pastor's home, and Wilson is the first pastor to live on the field. Pictured are Building Committee members except Kyzar who is ill. Left to right: Larry Peterson, Dale Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Archie Campbell, and Dewitt Bilbo. The Decorating Committee included Mrs. J. H. Kyzar, Mrs. Larry Peterson, and Mrs. Clarence Dillon.

PHALTI Church, Jeff Davis County, will have homecoming day on June 18. Jerry Sonaker, former pastor, will preach at the morning service. Another former pastor, Billy Ingram, will speak at the afternoon service. Serenity, Phalti singing group, will present special music. An old-fashioned dinner will be served on the grounds. Sammy Chisolm is pastor.

AS A PART OF MERIDIAN'S CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH OF JULY, Jim Hess, association music director, will lead combined choirs from the churches of Lauderdale Association in a presentation of selections from "I Love America." The choirs will sing in Highland Park.

Fete At Leaf River Marks 150th Year

Leaf River Church near Collins observed its 150th birthday on Sunday, May 21, with two services, and dinner served in the recently completed fellowship hall.

W. L. Compere of Newton was the speaker at the morning service and Bobby Boswell pastor at Rincon, Ga., was guest speaker in the afternoon. Both are former pastors.

Special music was presented by Mrs. Martha Jo Sandifer Mathis and by the Old Timers Trio — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Speed and Buford Clark.

Attendance was good, with people coming from as far as Texas and Florida.

The church holds the distinction of being the oldest in the county. An early history states the following in part:

In the year 1820 or 1821 what is now known as Leaf River church was begun. Norvell Robertson, Sr., was pastor of Providence Church and he, with



FIRST CHURCH, LAUDERDALE recently passed a milestone in its Sunday School growth with the enrollment going over the 300 mark. After being a mission for several years, the church organized in 1973 with 101 enrolled in Sunday School. In less than five years the Sunday School enrollment has tripled. "The growth is a result of faithful leadership," states the pastor, Jerry Bishop. Those pictured are a part of the growth team in Sunday School. Left to right: Charlotte Bishop, Children's Division; Sandra Wagner, bus director; Kathy Knight, Adult Division; Ella Stroud, Pre-school Division; Harvey Hollingsworth, Youth Division; and Houston Garrett, Sunday School director.

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MC Is Among Top Contributors To Seminary

Mississippi College is one of the top contributors of students to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., according to a report issued by the Seminary Office of College Relations.

Final enrollment statistics for the academic year 1977-78 showed that Mississippi College had 27 students enrolled at Southern Seminary. This ranked it among the top contributors of students to the seminary from Southern Baptist related colleges and universities across the United States.

Earlier this spring the seminary announced that four Mississippi College students had been awarded Luther Rice Scholarships. Only 20 of the top scholars are awarded nationwide. Receiving the awards were William J. Ireland, Jr., Greenville; Clarence Douglas Weaver, Richmond, Va.; William D. McCann, Ft. Worth, Tx., and Richard D. Axtell, Clinton.

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FOR SALE: Eight 12-foot pews, mahogany and white, good condition. One 27-foot pew, also good condition. Pew cushions in sections of different lengths, fair condition, good foam base — \$5 per cushion. Alta Woods Baptist Church, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS 39204 or call (601) 372-8651.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Helen Walker Kelsheimer has received a Bible and plaque, presented by her pastor, James E. Sanders, and chairman of deacons, Tommy Cook. Mrs. Kelsheimer retired recently as music director of New Hope Church, Meridian, after having served for 26 years. She has seen the music ministry of New Hope grow from a single choir of adults to a graded choir program with five choirs. A registered nurse, she is assistant to Dr. William Gillespie in Meridian. Her husband, Ezra Kelsheimer, is a deacon at New Hope.

Tim Nicholas, associate editor, the Baptist Record, was the featured writer for "The Sawdust Trail," on the religion page of the Jackson Daily News, Saturday, May 20. His devotional article was entitled "Unbelievers Should Be Welcomed, Too."



Carla Clark, left, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clark and Suzanne Ellis, center, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Ellis, are state winners in the State Children's Bible Drill held at First Church Greenwood. Suzanne received a plaque for being three-time State Winner from Mrs. W. E. McBride, right, drill leader for Immanuel Church, Greenwood.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Olan H. Runnels, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned a 10-year pastorate at Swope Park Baptist Church to become a vice president at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

Runnels, who began at Southwest Baptist May 23, will work with the vice president for development, Kenneth Edmondson, in institutional development, according to college president James Sells.

Ron Harris was ordained to the gospel ministry Sunday, May 21, at his home church, North Corinth at Corinth. Harris is pastor of South Cross Roads Church, Tishomingo Association. Bill Wages is pastor at North Corinth.

Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla., on May 5 awarded Doctor of Ministry degrees to the following from Mississippi: Millard Bennett, Inverness; Marcus D. Finch, Laurel; John I. Jacobs, Union; Lawrence F. Kirk, Sr., Meridian; Jimmy D. Martin, Tutwiler; James L. Mashburn, Laurel; J. B. Miller, Carthage; Hugh L. Poole, Macon. Receiving the Bachelor's degree were Clarence J. Cooper, Jr., Vardaman, and Don G. Nerren, Kosciusko. Of the 371 graduating this year, 210 received the Doctor of Ministry degree.



Margaret, left, and Laura Myers, daughters of the Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Myers (formerly missionaries to Vietnam and currently on the Foreign Mission Board staff in Richmond) were joint recipients on Honors Day at William Carey College of the Elaine Coleman Pearson Scholarship. Glen Pearson made the presentation, named in memory of his late wife. Pearson is a member of the Carey Board of Trustees.

B. J. Hudson was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 28 by Memorial Church, Richton, where he is pastor. Troy Sumrall, director of missions for Perry County was moderator. Ulmer Ladner, deacon and clerk of Memorial Church, was clerk. The charge to the church was given by Ramon Leake, pastor of First Church, Richton; the charge to the preacher was given by Douglas Benedict of William Carey College; the prayer was presented by Van Windom, pastor of Janice Church.

The new officers of the Mississippi College Baptist Young Women's Chapter were recently installed. They are Tammy Faulkner, Lucedale, prayer chairman; Olive Cook, Columbus, program chairman; and Nancy Myers, Sheffield, Ala., president; Marlene Boudreaux, Ocean Springs, publicity chairman; Betty Chain, Collins, treasurer; Amanda Myers, Senatobia, secretary; and Becky Lambrecht, New Orleans, La., program chairman. Mrs. William Thompson and Mrs. Joe Barber of Clinton are sponsors. BYW activities include visiting the Clinton Country Manor once a month and giving a birthday party for residents. Linda Soles, director of Clinton Christian Commu-

ity Corporation, and another of the BYW sponsors, keeps the members busy with activities aimed toward the betterment of the community all year long.

South Side Church, Meridian, licensed Mike May and Jimmie Smith to the gospel ministry on May 17. May will enter New Orleans Seminary this fall and Smith is currently enrolled at the seminary for the summer term. Both men are studying Religious Education. John Hopper, pastor, made the presentations along with a financial gift to each.

J. B. Costlow, director of religious activities at Clarke College, has announced the selection of Baptist Student Union officers to serve for the 1978-79 school year. Danny Lynn of Northport, Ala., will be the president, with Dorothy Beaver serving as communications chairman and Jody Holmes being enlistment chairman. Under the Christian Growth division the following chairmen have been named: Worship — Steve Mooneyham; Churchmanship — Cathy Mayo; Fellowship — J. P. Spencer; Study — Randy Makemson; Stewardship — Mary Bryant. Serving in the Christian Outreach division will be: Witness — David Jay; Indian Center — Mary Greene, Dianne Barnes, and Angel Davis; Ministry — Ron Ferrington; Social Action — Harry Frazier.

Donald Pounders, pastor of Enon Church, Clay County, was complimented by the church at a dinner in honor of his recent graduation from Mississippi State University. The church presented to him a small engraved pocket watch. The fellowship hall was decorated with silhouettes of graduates, paper streamers of white and maroon, a football, and an MSU '78 annual. The focus of interest was a large poster containing pictures of the pastor from five weeks old to his present age. Pounders is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Pounders of Luka.

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Running The Race

By Carl R. Nelson, Pastor, Pelahatchie Church

"... and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1-3). The Christian life is pictured in this passage as a race — a race to be run on a prescribed course, with a starting point as well as a finishing line. All living believers are running side-by-side on the same track. We are not competitors, but sometimes we get in each other's way.

The race is long and hard but everyone can be a winner. THE RECORD OF PAST RUNNERS inspires and encourages us. It helps to remember that others have run before us... that they endured the same or even greater hardships and many of them ran victoriously. Their lives and examples cheer us on.

We are given the REQUIREMENTS FOR RUNNING successfully. We must be free from entanglements — the burdens that weight us down, those nagging sins that continually trouble us and our over-involvement in the affairs of this life. It is also important that we discover and maintain the divine pace... we are to run with patience. Any other pace is too fast and will wear us out early, causing us to fall behind or even fall out.

As Christian runners we must also keep our eyes and mind on the goal... "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Jesus is the mark or the goal toward which we are to run. He has run the perfect race and we are to strive to be like Him in attitude, character, and behavior.

Even though our Saviour lives within us to lend us His strength, we are told that it is still necessary for us to persevere. We must endure all the hardships of the race.

Encouragement and victory is promised to all runners who follow the rules.



Pictured are past presidents present for the celebration, (from left, front row): Mrs. Louise Edmondson, Miss Etoile Lackey, Miss Lydia Ellard, Mrs. Edith Patterson, Mrs. Lorene Goodson, Mrs. Clemmie Kyle; (second row) Mrs. Ford Harrelson, Mrs. R. T. Gaston, Mrs. Ethel Ruth, Mrs. Modena Burson, Mrs. Charles C. Hardin, and Mrs. Lottie Mae Robertson.

Calhoun Women Celebrate 100 Years

Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Calhoun City on April 24 celebrated 100 years of WMU work in Mississippi.

Calhoun City First Church began its women's work in 1907, the first in Calhoun City. Past presidents were honored at the celebration.

Mrs. Ford Harrelson presided over the meeting in fellowship hall. The theme was "Our Best For God." Mrs. Doyle Caples of Bruce, County Centennial Chairman, was guest speaker. Mrs. Modena Burson gave a history of the WMU work in Calhoun City. Mrs. Joe Schoolfield was centennial chairman for Calhoun City.

Following the program, a centennial tea was held in the home of the pastor, Anthony S. Kay. Fifty guests attended.

Off The Record

For several days a four-year-old boy had been complaining that one of the neighborhood children was picking on him. Deciding the time had come to teach him something about the manly art of self-defense, the boy's father showed him how to make a fist and told him to let fly the next time his playmate picked on him.

The next afternoon the door burst open and the boy rushed in. His eyes were shining with triumph and excitement.

"Daddy," he shouted, "I did it! I did it! I hit her!"

A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.

In Brussels, a shoe store hired a new clerk and the proprietor laid down the law: "Don't let a pair of shoes out of this store without full payment." The new salesman smiled and said he understood. A few minutes later a customer came in and picked out a pair of shoes and said, "I only have twenty francs with me. Let me take the shoes and I'll bring the rest of the money tomorrow. The salesman said that was all right and the happy customer left with the shoes under his arm.

The proprietor rushed over, furious. "What kind of stupid transaction was that after what I told you?" he demanded. "What makes you think he'll come back tomorrow and give us the rest of the money?" "Don't worry," replied the clerk. "He'll be back. I gave him two left shoes."

Two teenagers discussed their families.

One said, "My grandmother reads her Bible all the time. I think she is cramming for her finals."

The California Southern Baptist

"Hello, Jones! Got a new car?"

"Yes. I went into a garage to use the phone, and I didn't like to come away without buying something."

ians, were not requirements for salvation but matters regarding ethics.

James' suggestion pleased the Council. The letter stating the decision of the Council was written and sent to Antioch by Paul and Barnabas, plus two members of the Jerusalem church.

THE CONSEQUENCE — Verses 30-31.

The decision reached by the Jerusalem Council was accepted by the church in Antioch. Since many members of the church in Antioch were converted Gentiles (11:19-21), the decision meant that Jewish Christians accepted the conversion of their Gentile brothers. This was an "encouraging message" to the Antioch church.

Further study in the New Testament reveals that the decision of the Jerusalem Council did not end the controversy over Gentile evangelism for the Judaizers continued to maintain that pagan Gentiles had to become Jewish proselytes before being saved. However, there was a period of peace following the conference.

The significance of the outcome of this Council cannot be stated too strongly. The conference dealt with a basic issue in the Christian faith — how is one saved? The scriptures declared that salvation is a gift of God's grace experienced in an act of faith — plus nothing else!

Life and Work Lesson

Jacob — When A Man Meets God

By Bill Duncan, Long, Beach, First Genesis 32:7-12, 17-18, 29-30

Don Harmon relates a story about a family that was driving through the mountains on a dreary December day. They were scanning the snow-capped peaks for the big Buffalo Mountain. Just as they spotted the mountain, the three-year-old saw a stream of sunlight flood down the mountainside and brighten the whole landscape.

"Oh, look, Daddy," she squealed, "God is coming through." The family laughed, but they knew that there was a lot to her childlike expression. Life is heavy, dull, and depressing when it seems that God does not shine through.

Many a person like Jacob feels the pain of loneliness and fear. All the time, our God is trying to communicate with us but we, many times, refuse to pick up the receiver.

Jacob paid for his fraudulent act of stealing his brother's birthright and blessing by a 20-year exile in Haran. While there his mother's brother, Laban, also practiced chicanery on him, in both his property and marriage rights. For Laban's daughter, the beautiful Rachel whom Jacob loved at first sight, he gave 14 years of labor. Jacob endured much in Haran, including other clashes with his father-in-law and idolatry inside his own family.

When Joseph was only six or seven years old, Jacob was divinely guided to return to the land of his fathers. Jacob realized that if he were to receive the ancestral promises for his family, he must conduct himself as God's own.

The change into a worthy patriarch came through a long process of adversity, family bereavements, disappointments, doubts, fears, loneliness, and moments of shocking weakness in his own character. The story of Jacob could be called the "Rough Road to Obedience." He learned the hard way that God's way is the best way.

The hardest lesson that Jacob learned was that he was not self-sufficient. In the first encounter with God at Bethel, the promise to Abraham was given to him. In appreciation for this undeserved promise, Jacob vowed that if God would be with him and return him to his father he would tithe. He tried to bargain with God. When Jacob returned 20 years

later he needed help; divine protection more than ever. He became desperate. He had to face God hopeless and bankrupt in spirit.

The trip home for Jacob was saddened because he had to face Esau. The possibility of vengeance, provoked by his own wrongdoing, had to be faced. His messenger brought word that Esau was coming with a company of 400 men — experienced desert raiders.

Jacob's first idea was to send gifts and be shrewd. The prayer of Genesis 32:9-12 was spontaneous from the need of the moment. Still he did not feel secure.

Then Jacob divided his family and sent them across the river Jabbok in hopes of saving at least some of his wealth and family. With a heart that was broken because he needed a higher power more than ever before, he turned back — alone — to seek God.

The wrestling that took place at Peniel was the wrestling of prayer. The man that wrestled with him was the angel of Jehovah, as Hosea 12:3-4 tells us. Jacob realized that fact before he was through for he called the place Peniel, "the face of God." The failure of the angel to prevail was not lack of physical power, for soon he touched Jacob's thigh so as to cripple him for life. The failure was to bring him to the point of surrender and spiritual development. This development was assured by crippling him. This made him weaker. As Jacob wrestled all night and came face to face with God and his old self, he stepped up to a new level of experience. His character had mellowed. Though once covetous, tricky, selfish, deceitful, and ambitious for material things, he was made humble, stable, purposeful, diplomatic and spiritually sensitive.

Jacob cried out to God for a blessing as he realized his need for God's power in his life. The blessing of God and the inward renewal brought by the experience allowed him to become Israel, the Prince of God. Truly he had learned some spiritual realities that he had missed before.

The experience at Peniel was the climax of the transformation that shuffled off the old sheath of Jacob, the Supplanter, and revealed the new man, Israel, the Prince of God. After Peniel, Jacob went on easily and gloriously

to a peaceful understanding with Esau. That peace, however, was assured because he had to face Esau. He limped his way into this victory. His chastisement stands until this day as a memorial to remind all children of Israel of the price of successfully striving with God and with men. When we are willing to say, "The Lord is Lord," we can have the grace of God in our lives. This is the only way we can face our brother correctly.

Jack Taylor has recently written in his excellent book, *Prayer: Life's Limitless Reach*, that "there is a miracle which awaits for you. It is

there all the time. No appointment is needed prior to it. No special qualifications need to be awaited. There are no office hours or time limits.

"That awaiting miracle is prayer. It begins with the problem of the believer — one of impotence and ignorance. It continues with the partnership of the Spirit, who both intercedes and intervenes according to the will of God. It climaxes in the purpose of the Father, his determined providence, his designated people, and his definite program.

"Prayer is that miracle. A miracle is waiting for you!"

Uniform Lesson

Resolving Conflict

By Hardy Denham, First, Newton Acts 15:1-31

The greatest crisis a church faces is not persecution without but division within. The Acts narrative relates how the church in Jerusalem thrived and grew in the fires of persecution. But the future of the church was seriously threatened when it experienced division within. The same is true of churches today.

The widespread conversion of Gentiles during the first mission enterprise (Acts 13-14) created the first theological crisis in church history. If the decision reached in the Jerusalem Council had required pagan Gentiles to first become Jewish proselytes and then Christians, Christianity would have become nothing but a sect within Judaism and probably would have died out by the end of the first century. These facts underscore the cruciality of the Council's decision.

I. THE CONTENTION — Verses 1-2a.

The contention within the church had to do with Gentile conversions. The declaration was made that Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be saved (verse 1). This was being repeatedly taught (the verb is imperfect) by men from Judea. These men

were later identified as members of "the party of the Pharisees" (verse 5a) and came to be known as Judaizers. Understand that their contention was not over the possibility of Gentile conversion, but the method.

Paul and Barnabas engaged the Judeans in a debate on the issue (verse 2a). The two missionaries knew from experience that the Lord would save Gentiles apart from Judaism. During their recently completed mission tour they had repeatedly witnessed the conversion of pagan Gentiles (14:27).

II. THE CONFERENCE — Verses 2b-29.

Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem by the church in Antioch (verses 2b-3). Since the controversy originated in Jerusalem, that was the place to settle it. The statement that the church sent them on their way (verse 3a) means that they were provided travel expenses. Was this the first instance of preachers being provided convention expenses?

The Jerusalem conference was divided into three different meetings. There was a general meeting (verses 4-5), a private meeting (verse 6), and a second general session (verses 7ff). At least four men addressed the conference regarding the issue of Gentile

conversion. These were Paul and Barnabas (verses 4 and 12), Peter (verses 7-11), and James (verses 13-21). The two missionaries reported on the mission to Gentiles (verse 4b). Peter, who had witnessed the conversion of Cornelius and his household, championed Gentile conversion apart from Judaism. He concluded by stating that all — Jews and Gentiles — were saved by grace alone (verse 11). James, in his address, referred to Peter's experience with Cornelius, quoted Amos 9: 11-12, and concluded that Gentiles could be saved apart from Judaism (verses 13-21). James also stated that Gentile converts from paganism should be requested to refrain from practices that were offensive to their Jewish brothers (verse 20).

There is some disagreement as to the number of restrictions agreed upon by the Council (verse 20). The demands seem to deal with eating meat sacrificed to idols (considered contaminated by Jews), sexual purity and refraining from eating meat with blood in it. Some consider blood to be a reference to murder. The three cardinal sins in the eyes of Jews were idolatry, fornication and murder. Notice that these requests, which were expressed in a letter to Gentile Chris-